Amendments to the Specification

On pages 8 and 9, please delete the section entitled "Brief Description of Figures" and replace it with the following:

Brief Description of the Figures

Fig. 1. Dimer synthons containing bases of the invention.

Fig. 2. Dimer synthons containing bases of the invention and containing 5 and 6 membered riboacetal type linkages.

Fig. 3. Dimer synthons containing bases of the invention and containing 6 and 7 membered riboacetal type linkages.

Figs. 4-1 and 4-2. Synthesis of monomers containing 2'-O-allyl modifications.

Figs. 5-1 and 5-2. Synthesis of O-xylene linked switchback dimers (synthetic method #1).

Fig. 6. Synthesis of monomers containing 2'-S-alkyl modifications.

Fig. 7. Synthesis of dimer linked by a 3'-thioformacetal linkage (method #2).

Figs. 8-1 and 8-2. Synthesis of trimer linked by a 3'-thioformacetal linkage (method #2).

Figs. 9-1 and 9-2. Synthesis of dimer linked by a riboacetal linkage (method #3).

Figs. 10-1, 10-2, 10-3 and 10-4. Coupling groups for oligomer synthesis via amidite or triester chemistry.

Fig. 11. Synthesis of dimer linked by a formacetal linkage (method #2).

Figs. 12-1, 12-2 and 12-3. Oligomer synthesis by (1) hydrogen-phosphonate, (2) amidite chemistry and (3) methyl phosphonate derivatives (method #1).

Fig. 13. Synthesis of a monomer for an oligomer containing amide linkages (method #4).

Fig. 14. Synthesis of the 5-((1-ethynyl)-2pyrimidinyl)-2'-deoxyuridine nucleomonomer.

Fig. 15. Synthesis of 5-(2-pyridinyl)-2'-deoxyuridine and 5-(2-pyridinyl)-2'-deoxycytidine nucleomonomers.

Fig. 16. Synthesis of 5-(2-thienyl)-2'-deoxyuridine derivative.

Figs. 17-1 Series of repeating nucleomonomer units.

Figs. 17-2 and 17-3. Exemplary amide-linked oligomer structures containing selected repeating units having base analogs of the invention.

Fig. 18. Dimer synthons containing bases of the invention and having exemplary 2', 5' linkages; thioformacetal and carbamate linkages.